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MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

North Riding of Yorkshire.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Chairman:- CHARLES NESOM Esq.

Vice-Chairman:- T.C. THEAKSTON Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. Sharpe, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H. to 4th October, 1954.

J.L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. from 1st January, 1955.

Surveyor and Acting Sanitary Inspector.

J. Lambert M.R.S.I. to 31st July, 1954.

J.W. Hindle B.Sc.; F.I.A.A., D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., M.R.S.I. from 1st  
July, 1954.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Masham Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year  
1954.

As you are aware, I was appointed Medical Officer of Health  
on January 1st 1955, hence this report covers the work carried out  
by my predecessor, Dr. W. Sharpe.

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the  
year under review. The birth rate was considerably lower than that  
for England and Wales whilst the death rate was very similar to the  
national figure. A pleasing feature was the absence of deaths of  
infants under one year of age.

The outstanding public health need of the district is for the  
improvement of the existing sewage disposal system for the township  
of Masham.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.L. COTTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	25,993
Population (Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1954)	1,640
Population (1931 Census)	2,024
Population (1951 Census)	1,738
Inhabited houses	663
Rateable Value.	22,011
Product of 1d Rate.	£90. 14. 2.







(b) VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate/1000 house pop'r</u>	
				<u>Local.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>					
Legitimate.	7	8	15)	9.76	15.2
Illegitimate.	1	0	1)		
<u>Still Births:</u>					
Legitimate.	0	0	0)	0*	24.0*
Illegitimate.	0	0	0)		
<u>Deaths:</u>					
All causes.	12	6	18	11.0	11.3
Natural causes.	-	0	0	0*	0.69*
Enteritis and diarrhoea under two years.	0	0	0	0	-

\* Rates per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births.  
 Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.  
 Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.

<u>Local.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
0	25.5
0	-
0	-

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.  
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cause of Death.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis.	1	0	1
Malignant Disease.	1	0	1
Cardio Vascular.	8	5	13
Bronchitis.	0	1	1
Other Diseases.	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle accidents.	1	0	1
Total Deaths (all causes)	12	6	18

POPULATION.

	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1948.</u>
Estimated mid-year population.	1640	1645	1657	1658	1696	1721	1704
Birth rate.	9.76	14.0	12.1	12.7	14.2	12.2	11.7
Death rate.	11.0	11.6	7.8	18.1	17.1	13.9	10.6

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The details of the staff are given at the beginning of the report.







### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Thirsk.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Local Hospital accommodation is provided by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at hospitals under the control of the Ripon and Harrogate Hospital Management Committee of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board.

### NURSING IN THE HOMES.

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery service is under the general direction of the County Council with the day to day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee through the district Medical Officer. One district nurse/midwife operates in the area.

### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service is administered by the Wensleydale Area Health Sub-Committee. Difficulty has been experienced in the Masham district in recruiting domestic help and consequently, no cases have been helped during the year.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

The new supply for the village of Ilton was brought into use during the latter part of the year. This has replaced the unsatisfactory springs and shallow wells which have supplied the village in the past.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The existing sewage disposal system for the township of Masham continues to be inadequate and unsatisfactory. The works are seriously overloaded and produce an effluent little better than crude sewage. In addition, a considerable number of properties drain to an open sewer which discharges direct into the river to the East of Masham bridge. In view of the potential risk to health, it is essential that the proposed scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal be started at the earliest opportunity.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The use of indirect labour continues to provide a satisfactory system. However, the tip at Masham is rapidly being filled and steps should be taken to acquire a new site.

## SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

There is a considerable amount of unfit property in the district but until the housing survey is completed, the magnitude of the problem will not be known.







SECTION E.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

1. MEAT.

Following the decontrol of meat in July 1954, the Local Authority licensed one slaughterhouse in the Masham Rural District.

2. OTHER FOODS.

There are 6 vendors of ice cream licensed by the local authority.

SECTION F.

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The only infectious diseases notified during the year were three cases of scarlet fever.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following figures relate to the immunisation state of the child population:-

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Immunised.</u>
0 - 4	56%
5 - 14	85%

VACCINATION.

Of the children born during 1954, 48% have been notified as having been vaccinated against smallpox.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 to 24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 to 34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 to 44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 54	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
55 to 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>TOTAL.</u>	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

There were four cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis and no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the Register at the 31st December 1954. This gives a rate of 2.4 cases of tuberculosis per 1000 population which is the same rate as that for 1953.



